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10 December 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Discussion with Francis Hewitt of Senate Appropriations Committee Staff

1. Legislative Counsel met with Francis Hewitt of Senate Appropriations Committee staff and discussed the possibility of a briefing before the CIA Subcommittee of Senate Appropriations on Agency activities. The question of making a matter of official record the establishment of and membership on the CIA Subcommittee including recording officially the fact of meetings was discussed. This brought up the question of a hearing before the Subcommittee on the CIA budget.

2. At the suggestion of Mr. Hewitt these points were discussed further with Mr. Thomas J. Scott, the Assistant Chief Clerk of the Committee staff. From the reactions of these two, it was clear that any change in existing procedure should be discussed with Senator Hayden. It was equally clear that it was their opinion that the present procedures for handling CIA matters were the result of what was believed to be the Agency's wishes in the matter. In particular, Mr. Scott speculated that if the procedures were changed and if the Agency did brief the Subcommittee on Agency activities, the position of the Subcommittee members would be strengthened in dealing with queries from other Senators and especially in the case of Senator Hayden.

3. In considering the possibility of an Agency briefing there was discussed the fact that three members of the CIA Appropriations Subcommittee also are members of the CIA Armed Services Subcommittee, only Senator Hayden and Senator Chavez not being members of the CIA Armed Services Subcommittee. Also all members of the CIA Armed Services Subcommittee are members of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. In view of the overlapping of the membership of the two CIA Subcommittees, the thought was raised of having the CIA briefings done before a joint meeting of the two Senate CIA Subcommittees.

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4. Both Mr. Scott and Mr. Hewitt raised the matter of the Mansfield resolution for a Joint Committee and indicated their opinion that if some of the steps discussed were accomplished (or other similar actions), there would be stronger rebuttal for some of the arguments for a Mansfield type resolution.

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cc: DCI
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